

Life Story of Tom Horn, Who Shot Men For So Much a Head.

Awful Career of Crime and Blood of Famous Army Scout and Indian Interpreter Who "Removed" "Objectionable Characters" Whenever Certain of the Cattle Barons of Wyoming Desired—Says That He Always Got His Price, and That the Killing of Willie Nickel Was the "Dirtiest Job" He Ever Did.



TOM HORN AT WORK.

During his incarceration Horn was a busy prisoner and spent much of his time in braiding hair ropes. He was engaged at that task when the "News" photographer obtained the above snapshot of him.

(Special to the "News.")
Cheyenne, Wyo., Nov. 20.—For weeks past arrangements have been making for Tom Horn, at one time a celebrated army scout, Indian fighter and trapper, but who later became notorious through his work as a stock detective on the ranges of Wyoming and Colorado, to be hanged in the Laramie county jail today, and thus make atonement for the murder of William Nickel, the 13-year-old son of Ranchman Kels P. Nickel of Iron Mountain, 55 miles north of Cheyenne, whom Horn assassinated on the morning of July 18, 1901.

The murder was one of the most atrocious crimes in the history of the west, and while Horn's name was connected with the murder of a number of ranchmen who had been put out of the way because they were "rustling" cattle, it was not believed that he could have killed the boy. It was said the killing of the child was a "mistake," and such proved to be the case. The prosecution of Horn brought to light the inner workings of a range feud of long standing, and at one time it appeared there might be many arrests among the wealthy cattle barons, but nothing came of the matter.

HIS OWN EXECUTIONER.

The plan was for Horn to be his own executioner; for to spring the trap by his own weight upon it, which draws a plug from a pail of water and when the water runs out a heavy weight falls, pulling out a prop that holds a trap in place, causing the murderer to drop into eternity. Thousands of people gathered outside of the county jail, thinking that the execution would be held in the court yard, but the authorities feared an attempt would be made to liberate Horn, so the execution was set to take place inside and in the presence of six of Horn's friends, five or six officers and newspaper men.

HORN'S BLOODY CAREER.

The true history of Tom Horn from birth to the gallows, stories of many crimes he is alleged to have committed, and a detailed account of the thrilling experiences of the scout while in the service of the government on the Texas border, would make a book of many thousands of pages of intensely interesting reading. But although Horn, while confined in the county jail, wrote

game in sight the Indians then set out to kill the stock of the ranchmen. Sheriff Miller and five deputies left New Castle a week before the battle occurred, to arrest the Indians. He ran on to the camp on Beaver Creek and secured some of the women and five wagons, the balance of the party being camped on another creek and getting away before the officers could arrest them. The Indians were followed south into Converse county and overtaken at the beaver dams in Little Lightning creek, 45 miles north of Lusk late in the evening. Eagle Feather and Black Kettle, the latter one of the notorious warriors of the Sioux tribes, resisted arrest and a battle began. Sheriff Miller was shot through the left thigh and died within half an hour. Deputy Charles Frankenburg, one of the posse, was wounded. Black Kettle was killed at the first fire and Eagle Feather fell with bullets through both legs. Six Indians in all were killed and 10 wounded, and all laid on the battlefield all night. There were 33 white men in the party that fought the Indians. Sheriff Miller having picked up a number of ranchmen after capturing the women and five wagons. They fought the Indians to a standstill for over an hour, darkness finally putting a stop to the charge. In the darkness of night, four or five of the Indians escaped in the direction of the Pine Ridge agency.

HEADS TEXAS DESPERADOES.

Horn first came to Wyoming in 1859, but he did not remain long. He was then known as Tom Hale. He went back to Texas, but returned to Wyoming in 1882 at the head of a band of 30 Texas desperadoes who had been engaged to participate in the Johnson county raid of the wealthy stockmen against the "rustlers" and small ranchmen. The movement was for the purpose of putting a stop to cattle thieving and to gain control of a vast and valuable range in the Powder river country, and Horn and his cohorts were taken along to do the fighting on behalf of the government. The invaders fought one battle with the rustlers and killed Champion and Ray, two alleged rustlers. The invading army was surrounded by the attendant ranchmen, however, and they would have been annihilated but for the prompt arrival of United States troops from Fort McKinney, having been ordered to the rescue by the secretary of war at the urgent request of the governor of Wyoming, who was alleged to have been one of the party of invaders.

IN PORTO RICO.

Horn remained in Wyoming from this time on, except for brief periods when he was in the service of the government as a scout or packmaster. In 1893 when war was declared with Spain, Gen. Miles sent to Wyoming for Horn and made him chief scout in the Porto Rico campaign. At the close of the war Horn returned to Wyoming, but he was a mere skeleton of his former self, fever having racked his frame for more than three months.

AS A HIRED ASSASSIN.

Horn was employed by a number of the associations of cattlemen in Wyoming. His business was to ride the ranges, spy on the alleged rustlers and gather evidence of their guilt. At first this evidence was taken into the courts, but a conviction was rarely ever secured, and Horn is alleged to have taken it upon himself to get rid of the rustlers in his own peculiar way and which, he often remarked, was the sure way. It must be said, however, that the cattle associations did not approve of Horn's methods of work, and many members withdrew from the associations. Horn continued in the employ of a few, however, and while thus engaged he is said to have been suspected of the murder of William Powell and William Lewis, Iron Mountain ranchmen, who were assassinated the same month in 1895.

KILLING OF LEWIS.

Lewis was killed while leading beef in his corral. Horn is alleged to have ridden into the corral with a pistol and commanded Lewis to throw up his hands. Hardly had Lewis complied with the command when Horn fired, killing him instantly. Powell was killed while making hay in a meadow near his ranch, the assassin being hidden behind a rock on the opposite side

BORN IN MISSOURI.

Tom Horn was born in Scotland county, Missouri, in November, 1850 and had lived another day he would have been 48 years of age. He was driven away from home by his father in the fall of 1874. His father was soon after compelled to flee to the British possessions to escape the officers, who were after him on several charges of forgery and check raising. It is said also that the elder Horn was the leader of a notorious band of Scotland county horse thieves, and that at one time he was a member of the James gang of train robbers. He died a few years ago in Van Couver.

PONY EXPRESS RIDER.

Tom walked into St. Louis and got a job with a freighter on the old Santa Fe trail. The next spring found him in Santa Fe driving stage for the Overland Mail company. The next fall and winter he was engaged in pony express riding and in herding stock for the mail company. The country was filled with hostile Indians and Horn had frequent brushes with the Apaches. He had become a crack shot with rifle and pistol by this time, and it is said of him that his deadly aim caused many a warrior to bite the dust.

WITH MILES AND CODY.

Horn picked up the Indian language quickly and secured a position with the army as scout and interpreter. He soon attracted the attention of Buffalo Bill and Gen. Nelson A. Miles, both of whom formed a strong liking for the young Missourian. In the campaign, chase and capture of Geronimo.

CHIEF OF SCOUTS.

Horn was made chief of scouts and rendered such valuable service that the commanding officer frequently mentioned him in his reports to the com-



Mr. Proctor is the man who built the gallows and superintended all the details leading to the execution of Horn. Singlehanded and alone he fought the murderer and Jim Cloud for 20 minutes when they broke jail on Aug. 9 last. Horn made a desperate effort to kill Proctor but failed, a fact he deeply deplored.

OFF AT THE GATE LEADING FROM THE NICKELL PASTURE, AND KILLED HIM TO PREVENT HIM RUNNING TO THE HOUSE AND RAISING A HELL OF A COMMOTION.

SHOT IN THE BACK.

Willie Nickel received two bullets in the back, the shots being fired from a 30-20 Winchester, smokeless powder, from a distance of nearly 400 yards. The assassin was scooped behind a pile of rocks on a little hill overlooking the gate. The boy had seen the murderer and was hurrying back to the house. He dismounted from his horse and the assassin fired and he received the fatal wounds just as he was about to mount his horse. The animal wandered on the prairie for two days, and was found by a younger brother, who reported the fact to his father, and it was then that the body of the murdered lad was found.

THE MILLERS SUSPECTED.

At first the members of the family of James Miller, next neighbors of the Nickells, were suspected, and the father and two sons were arrested and brought to Cheyenne. They established an alibi and were released. County Attorney Stoll set at work on the case, and as several clues pointed to Horn as the guilty party this theory was followed out and at the hands of persons unknown to the family, evidence against him was obtained. The Millers and Nickells had had frequent fights, and both sides had threatened the other with death, and for these reasons the suspicion against Horn was not strong until after the prosecution gave an inkling of its evidence against him.

BECOMES GARRULOUS.

After the coroner's jury had returned a verdict that Willie Nickel came to his death at the hands of persons unknown, Horn having testified and told a straightforward story, the cattle detective became bold and spent much of his time in drunken carousals about town.

LA FORS' CLEVER TRAP.

Joe La Fors, deputy United States marshal, had been working on the case, and believing Horn to be guilty he set about laying a trap for him. Under the belief that La Fors had secured a position for Horn in Montana, the latter went with the deputy to La Fors' office on the afternoon of Jan. 12, 1902. Deputy Sheriff Snow and Stenographer Ohnhauser were seated in an inner room and heard all that Horn and La Fors said. La Fors talked about killing on the ranges and by way of leading up to the Nickel murder said:

HORN'S CONFESSION.

"How about that murder, Tom? I have kept track of you on the other ranges, but I must confess that after working on this case for a long time I could not ascertain how you come to kill that boy."

"Well, I suppose it was like this," remarked Horn, "I was coming up the draw that leads to Nickel's house, and when he saw the man that was there to do the killing, he tried to get back to the house. I realized that the kid would create a disturbance, got back behind a pile of rocks and as the kid came along gave it to him."

HORN BADLY WOUNDED.

On his way out of the Brown's Park country Horn got into a fight with a man named Dison, near the Colorado line. In the mix-up Horn received a slash across the right side of his neck that nearly ended his career. The scar he carried to his grave and is plainly visible in the accompanying picture of Horn. The detective laid out in the sage brush for 19 or 20 days before he was able to return to his ranch as an Indian would. During his long life among the Indians he had learned much from the medicine men and this knowledge now stood him in need.

DARKEST CRIME OF ALL.

But the crime that finally landed Horn behind the bars was the Nickel murder. The father of the boy had been a thorn in the side of some of the cattlemen in the Iron Mountain country for many years. Repeated efforts had been made to murder him, but he had brought sheep into the cattle country—an unpardonable offense in the eyes of the cattlemen. Nickel had also trouble with John C. Cobble, manager of the Iron Mountain Ranch company, at whose ranch Horn made his headquarters, and who proved to be Horn's warmest friend all during his trouble and trials in the courts. It is alleged that Nickel's death was decided upon and Horn was selected to perform the job.

LYING IN WAIT FOR FATHER.

Horn admitted to his attorneys when they took charge of his case that he was lying in wait for Kels Nickel at the time the boy was murdered. Horn was secreted in a deep ravine not far from the Nickel ranch when Willie Nickel, en route to Iron Mountain station, came upon him. Fearing he would return to the house and report Horn's presence in the community, Horn, to use his own words, "CUT THE LAD

MURDER A SPECIALTY.

TO PROSECUTE SWEETHEART.

NO TROUBLE IN GETTING MONEY.

VICTIM WAS SCARED.

ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE.

BRAGGED OF HIS DEEDS.

SAID CONFESSION WAS A JOKE.

THE DEATH SENTENCE.

TRIED TO SAVE HORN.

WAS CONVICTED.

APPEALED TO SUPREME COURT.

WAS DENIED.

WAS HANGED.

TRIAL COST \$80,000.

WAS DEFENDED BY JUDGE J. LACEY.

HORN PRESENTED A CHARACTER SELDOM ENCOUNTERED IN A MURDERER.

HORN WAS PROSECUTED BY BURKE, BURKE, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR WYOMING.

HORN LOVES A SISTER AND SEVERAL BROTHERS.

HORN WAS MADE CHIEF OF SCOUTS.

HORN PICKED UP THE INDIAN LANGUAGE QUICKLY.

HORN WAS MADE CHIEF OF SCOUTS.



TOM HORN IN HIS PRISON CELL. How the Notorious Murderer Looked When He Posed for Mr. W. G. Walker, the "News" Correspondent and Photo Grapher.

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SIoux INDIANS ARRESTED FOR MURDER OF SHERIFF MILLER.

The accompanying photo of the nine Sioux Indians who participated in the battle at the beaver dams in Lightning Creek, 45 miles north of Lusk, Wyo., on Saturday, October 31, was taken at Douglas, Wyo., just before the Redskins were turned loose last week.

The story of the trouble in brief is as follows:

For several years bands of Indians traveling backward and forward between the Sioux, Crow and Arapahoe agencies in Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, have slaughtered thousands of antelope and deer annually, and in many cases the cattle and sheep of the ranchmen have been killed. The authorities of Weston county, Wyo., have been trying to break up the outlawry for some time and this year a determined effort was decided upon. Several weeks ago a large party of Sioux Indians, under Eagle Feather, otherwise known as Charlie Smith, the full blooded Sioux and a graduate from the Carlisle Indian school, appeared in the game country south of New Castle. They were accompanied by their women and traveled in 12 wagons and with 20 horses.

Reports reached New Castle that after slaughtering all of the wild



1. Iron Shield. 2. Chief He Crow. 3. Red Pin. 4. High Bull. 5. Broken Nose. 6. High Dog. 7. James White Elk. 8. Charge Wolf. 9. Jessie Little War Bonnet.

SOME OF THE WONDERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD.

In their investigation of the rains of red mud that fell in Victoria early this year, F. Chapman and H. J. Grayson have found that the dust, which reached 50 tons per square mile. Much limonite was included, with many mineral fragments and diatoms. The material seems to have been carried by the winds from the vicinity of certain swamps and salt lakes, which exist from 30 to 200 miles north and west of Melbourne, and whose margins had been made unusually dry by the season of drought.

With his improved lamp, L. Demayrouge, a French physicist, claims to obtain light with pure alcohol at a third of the cost per candle power of petroleum lighting, and with arcuated alcohol at a fifth of the cost. A wick conducts the liquid by capillary into a chamber, where it is vaporized by the heat from a copper bar reaching into the flame. The vapor passes into a kind of Bunsen burner, over which is fixed a mantle.

A puzzling fact is that the walls of the intestines and the parasites often living on them are never digested by the ferments that attack, destroy and transform the food. Frenzel, in 1881, suggested that protective anti-ferments are secreted by living tissues. In some late experiments, M. Wehland, a French physiologist, sought to digest fibrine in tryptase or pepsin after first adding a little juice from intestinal worms, but the ferment had no effect upon the fibrine in the presence of the anti-ferment juice. It is thus proven that the juices secreted by animals ingesting living tissue—instead of the tissues themselves—resist digestion. The anti-ferment extract is exceedingly powerful and retains its resisting power for months, but it loses its property on boiling.

The war against malaria and mosquitoes is to be fought out in tropical Africa. Dr. Dutton, in a report to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine states that 80 per cent of the native children, examined in British Gambia showed the malarial parasite in the blood, and that the liability of infection by Europeans continues during the rainy season, the time of mosquitoes. The breeding places of the insects include wells, canoes, boats, lighters, barrels, tubs and various disused household utensils, and grassed-over street trunks. Darhurst, the captain of the colony, offers an annual field for a test of extermination plans, as the land to be dealt with has an area of only a square mile and is isolated by a broad expanse of seawater, where rains occur in only four months of the year. The removal of breeding places, now several in number, is in progress, is aided by a grant of £200 a year.

Tantalum has been known hitherto as a somewhat obscure powder having a density of 16.59. Henri Moissan has now reduced tantalum to a metal by electrolysis with carbon, and the fused tantalum obtained has a brilliant metallic appearance, and a density of 12.75. It scratches quartz, is infusible in the oxyhydrogen blowpipe, and crystallizes fracture, and is classed with the metalloids.